

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 05950 202107Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 DHA-02 AID-05 IGA-02 IO-13

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /077 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5738

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5950

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM PGOV PINT CI

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON CHILEAN EXILE REACTIONS TO EVENTS IN CHILE

REF: USUN NY 2290

1. NEW YORK-BASED CHILEAN EXILES ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT IMMUNE FROM CLASSIC EXILE SYNDROME: THEY ARE FAR FROM THE SCENE, RECEIVE NEWS SECOND OR THIRD HAND, AND REACT WITH EMIGRE EMOTIONALISM WHEN EVENTS DO NOT SERVE THEIR GOALS. INACCURACY AND EXAGGERATION ARE THE NORM.

2. IT IS NOT SURPRISING, THEN, THAT THE EXILES HAVE THE FACTS WRONG REGARDING THE "EXCESSIVELY WORDED LANGUAGE OF THE EMBASSY STATEMENT." THERE WAS NO EMBASSY STATEMENT. AS I LEFT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AFTER A PRIVATE TALK WITH THE MINISTER (WHEREIN I DID NOT EXCEED INSTRUCTIONS), I REPLIED TO QUESTIONS BY A PURSUING REPORTER. THE SUBSEQUENT "EL MERCURIO" STORY WAS SO OVERBLOWN THAT THE SAME AFTERNOON THE GOC ISSUED A STATEMENT DESIGNED TO PUT DISTANCE BETWEEN THE PINOCHET SPEECH AND THE USG REACTION. IN SHORT, THE WHOLE THING RESULTS FROM PRESS MISHANDLING OF OFFICIAL COMMENTS, A PROBLEM WITH WHICH USUN IS NOT UNFAMILIAR.

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 05950 202107Z

3. THE CHILEAN EXILE DESCRIPTION OF THE REACTION IN CHILE (PARA 2 REFTTEL) IS LIKEWISE DISTORTED. IT IS MORE A PROJECTION OF EXILE VIEWS THAN A STUDIED ANALYSIS OF THE REACTION HERE. THE BASIC THEME OF THE REACTION IN CHILE IS THAT THE PINOCHET SPEECH MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A PROCESS, NOT THE END OF EXTERNAL PRESSURE ("ABANDONMENT"). SEE SANTIAGO 5902.

4. THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT REGARDING THE CHILEAN EXILES IS THE FACT THAT THEIR GOALS AND US POLICY OBJECTIVES ARE NOT NECESSARILY PARALLEL. THE CHILEAN EXILES' AVOWED GOAL IS TO OVERTHROW THE PINOCHET REGIME. THE USG HAS MADE IT CLEAR IN POLICY AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT OUR OBJECTIVE IS NOT TO DESTABLIZE THE PINOCHET REGIME OR INTERVENE IN CHILEAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, BUT RATHER TO SEEK HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS AS BROADLY DEFINED BY SECRETARY VANCE. WHEN THE US PURSUES HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS HERE BY "ENCOURAGEMENT" AS OUTLINED BY SECRETARY VANCE IN HIS LAW DAY SPEECH, IT IS CLEAR TO THE CHILEAN EXILES THAT WE ARE NOT SEEKING TO OVERTHROW PINOCHET AS THEY WOULD LIKE AND THEY FEEL THREATENED AND "ABANDONED."

5. THE FACT IS THAT SINCE MID-1976, 4,000 POLITICAL/SECURITY PRISONERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED -- FEWER THAN 400 REMAIN IN JAIL; PINOCHET HAS ANNOUNCED A "NORMALIZATION" PLAN WHICH HAS OPENED DEBATE ON HOW AND WHEN TO RETURN CHILE TO SOME FORM OF CONSTITUTIONAL/

ELECTED GOVERNMENT AND THE MILITARY TO THE BARRACKS; WE ANTICIPATE FURTHER PROGRESS ON STATE OF SIEGE AND CONTROL OF SECURITY SERVICES. BY ANY DEFINITION, OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY GOALS ARE BEING ACHIEVED. I WOULD ARGUE THAT THE EXILES PERCEIVE HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS HERE AS A THREAT TO THEIR GOAL OF OVERTHROWING PINOCHET AND THEY SEEK TO AVOID OR DOWNPLAY SUCH PROGRESS.

6. THAT THE CHILEAN EXILES GET THE FACTS WRONG REGARDING THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTIA 05950 202107Z

US'S PUBLIC HUMAN RIGHTS DIPLOMACY, THAT THEY ARE IGNORANT OF OUR PRIVATE EFFORTS FOR PROGRESS AND THAT THEY FEEL THREATENED WHEN OUR GOALS CONFLICT WITH THEIRS ARE ALL UNDERSTANDABLE. I FIND IT MORE DIFFICULT TO BE CHARITABLE WITH RESPECT TO THE CHILEAN EXILES' AD HOMINEM ATTACKS ON MY PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY (PARA 3 REFTEL). I SUSPECT THEIR ACCUSATIONS AND MISREPRESENTATIONS ARE BASED UPON INACCURATE INFORMATION AND THE FACT THAT THEY FEEL THREATENED BY A SUCCESSFUL US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY HERE. I WILL RESERVE COMMENT.
BOYATT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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